




**MINERALS PROGRAM INSPECTION REPORT**  
**PHONE: (303) 866-3567**

The Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety has conducted an inspection of the mining operation noted below. This report documents observations concerning compliance with the terms of the permit and applicable rules and regulations of the Mined Land Reclamation Board.

<b>MINE NAME:</b> Pikeview Quarry	<b>MINE/PROSPECTING ID#:</b> M-1977-211	<b>MINERAL:</b> Limestone (general), granite gneiss and do	<b>COUNTY:</b> El Paso
<b>INSPECTION TYPE:</b> Surety-Related Inspection	<b>WEATHER:</b> Clear	<b>INSP. DATE:</b> October 23, 2024	<b>INSP. TIME:</b> 10:00
<b>OPERATOR:</b> Riverbend Industries Inc.	<b>OPERATOR REPRESENTATIVE:</b> Jerry Schnabel	<b>TYPE OF OPERATION:</b> 112c - Construction Regular Operation	
<b>REASON FOR INSPECTION:</b> Surety Related	<b>BOND CALCULATION TYPE:</b> Complete Bond	<b>BOND AMOUNT:</b> \$6,805,607.00	
<b>DATE OF COMPLAINT:</b> NA	<b>POST INSP. CONTACTS:</b> None	<b>JOINT INSP. AGENCY:</b> None	
<b>INSPECTOR(S):</b> Hunter Ridley	<b>INSPECTOR'S SIGNATURE:</b> 	<b>SIGNATURE DATE:</b> November 12, 2024	

**GENERAL INSPECTION TOPICS**

This list identifies the environmental and permit parameters inspected and gives a categorical evaluation of each. No problems or possible violations were noted during the inspection. The mine operation was found to be in full compliance with Mineral Rules and Regulations of the Colorado Mined Land Reclamation Board for the Extraction of Construction Materials and/or for Hard Rock, Metal and Designated Mining Operations. Any person engaged in any mining operation shall notify the office of any failure or imminent failure, as soon as reasonably practicable after such person has knowledge of such condition or of any impoundment, embankment, or slope that poses a reasonable potential for danger to any persons or property or to the environment; or any environmental protection facility designed to contain or control chemicals or waste which are acid or toxic-forming, as identified in the permit.

(AR) RECORDS----- <u>Y</u>	(FN) FINANCIAL WARRANTY----- <u>N</u>	(RD) ROADS----- <u>Y</u>
(HB) HYDROLOGIC BALANCE----- <u>Y</u>	(BG) BACKFILL & GRADING----- <u>Y</u>	(EX) EXPLOSIVES----- <u>N</u>
(PW) PROCESSING WASTE/TAILING---- <u>N</u>	(SF) PROCESSING FACILITIES----- <u>Y</u>	(TS) TOPSOIL----- <u>N</u>
(MP) GENL MINE PLAN COMPLIANCE- <u>N</u>	(FW) FISH & WILDLIFE----- <u>Y</u>	(RV) REVEGETATION---- <u>Y</u>
(SM) SIGNS AND MARKERS----- <u>Y</u>	(SP) STORM WATER MGT PLAN---- <u>N</u>	(RS) RECL PLAN/COMP-- <u>Y</u>
(ES) OVERBURDEN/DEV. WASTE----- <u>N</u>	(SC) EROSION/SEDIMENTATION--- <u>Y</u>	(ST) STIPULATIONS----- <u>N</u>
(AT) ACID OR TOXIC MATERIALS----- <u>N</u>	(OD) OFF-SITE DAMAGE----- <u>N</u>	

Y = Inspected / N = Not inspected / NA = Not applicable to this operation / PB = Problem cited / PV = Possible violation cited

## **OBSERVATIONS**

This inspection was conducted by Hunter Ridley with the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety (Division) as part of the continuing planned monthly inspections to observe the backfill placement for the final reclamation of the Pikeview Quarry. As backfill placement has ceased, monthly inspections have continued to observe final grading and revegetation efforts. Jerry Schnabel (representing the Permittee, Riverbend Industries Inc.) and Stantec representative Paul Kos were present for the inspection. David Deitemeyer with the City of Colorado Springs was present. USFS representatives Cullen Lapointe and Julie Spawn were also present for the inspection.

On October 10, 2024 the Division received a submission for Surety Reduction 4 (SR-4). This reduction request is for tasks related to earthwork, topsoil placement, and rip rap placement. The Division is currently in the process of reviewing the materials submitted. This inspection does not represent the official inspection for the SR4 release request as required by Rule 4.17.2.

**Records:** Placement of backfill material and subsequent compaction testing has ceased at Pikeview Quarry. In total, compaction testing occurred on backfill material from March of 2022 to July of 2024. A reduction in frequency of geotechnical report submission was approved by the Division in TR-25. This reduces reporting frequency from monthly to quarterly. The next report will be due in January 2025 and include observation data from October 2024 to December 2024.

The Leica prism system data continues to be collected onsite and monitored by Riverbend Industries. As site personal leave the quarry through the winter months, electricity will be kept on in support of the Leica system. Pikeview staff will be able to view this data remotely throughout the winter months. Prism data continues to support the conclusion that slope stability is being achieved on the buttress. More specifically, data shows that the bottom of the buttress is not moving. The topmost recently placed benches, continue to show minute and expected signs of settlement into the overall buttress slope. This continued settlement helps prevent the buildup of potential energy at the top of the slope, which could result in rock fall or slumps. Recorded slope movements are on the magnitude of 0.1 ft. Construction settlement in the bench 7500 series seen earlier this year has been largely immobile since May.

This Leica data will aid the Division in its decision to approve or deny the eventual final release of the Pikeview Quarry permit. The review and approval of additional geotechnical analyses as described above ensures the longevity of slope stability at the site and also aids in this decision.

The mine sign, which included all required information pursuant to Rule 3.1.12, was located at the site's access road.

### **Backfilling and Grading:**

All major earthwork is complete at the site. Minor earthmoving reclamation activities remain. The quarry south borrow area is currently acting as the storage area for rip rap material, also called the lower rip rap quarry area. Once all this rock material has been removed and placed, the site will reduce the size of the bench by backfilling, topsoiling, and seeding up to the first bench of this slope (Photo 3). Above this, the rock face slope is stable but remains a talus slope. Through discussions with the Division and the Forest Service, it was decided that a layer of topsoil would be placed in this rocky area to fill in some of the natural gaps and encourage the growth of small sections of grasses and improve the overall reclaimed look of the slope. A smaller bench will thus remain in this area, adjacent to the plunge pool feature and will be topsoiled, matted and seeded (Photos 4 and 5). A small amount of rip rap is left to be placed at the far east end of the site, in the main north channel.

**Roads:** The site continues its work in obliterating all roads on Forest Service property, as requested by the Forest Service. The Division and the Forest Service discussed the potential need to bond for the construction of a temporary road to access and drainage channels which may require maintenance after the winter season. This will be further addressed as part of the SR4 revision.

**Fish and Wildlife:** No negative impact on wildlife was observed. A small herd of ~12 Bighorn sheep were observed laying atop the upper benches.

**Revegetation & Topsoil:**

Remaining activities include continuing to topsoil and mat acreage at the south quarry area and near the Leica prism station bench level.

Recent vegetation growth was observed across the entire buttress portion of the site (Photos 3 and 4). Irrigation tanks still remain on the lower buttress bench (Photos 6 and 10). No additional irrigation tanks are planned to be added anywhere onsite. Some areas of the site, particularly those which were revegetated using the matting method are showing signs of growth, with a small set of diverse species coming through. Some annual weeds were noted among the native growth but were not in excess. Other areas, such as the first buttress bench level, are struggling more with stability in supporting shrubs and grasses. The Division does not yet have a clear indication of how well tree transplants are doing across the site. As part of the Amendment 4 (AM-4) revision, Pikeview has committed to a 70% survival rate for trees on site. Data for these conclusions will be collected by Pikeview via the point-transect method. No areas of major grass or shrub die-off was noted at the time of inspection.

Weeds currently being treated at the site include a List A noxious weed species, Myrtle spurge along with common knapweed, thistle, toadflax, and mullein.

**Sediment Control:**

Coconut matting onsite, both recently placed and originally placed, are holding up to stormwater and general erosion well. Thickening vegetation has been observed across all matted areas, which has kept erosion across the site to a minimum.

**Hydrologic Balance:**

Pikeview continues to work with the City and a Forest Service hydrologist to address previous concerns about the Upper South Channel (Photos 7 and 8). At the time of inspection, Pikeview staff were excavating a trench into the Upper South Channel to determine how deep a layer of unconsolidated material was atop 'bedrock'. It was determined that ~2-3 feet down into unconsolidated material lies a hard, consolidated clay layer. Pikeview and the Forest Service are still discussing final plans for this channel. The tentative plan is to extend the western rock wall currently in place along the ditch (Photo 8) towards the newly cut trench on the south side of the channel (Photo 8). This is done with the intention of cutting off hydrology between the Upper South Channel and the drainage area to the south, which will prevent stormwater from flowing outside of its planned channel.

The previously discussed 'sheep pond' area has not yet been graded out and the guzzler system has not yet been installed on the upper slope area. The guzzler system was recommended by CPW as a way to maintain the seep as a water source and continue to support the local population of Bighorn sheep.

A small amount of ponding was visible at the Leica prism level bench (Photo 6). Site representatives stated that they would be regrading this area to promote proper drainage in the next few days.

**Post Inspection Meeting:** No problems or possible violations were observed during the inspection. Items of importance discussed during the site meeting and items which will need to be followed up on are summarized below:

- Future reduction of monthly inspection frequency to begin when only monitoring of revegetation efforts remain and as approved by the Division
- Address any concerns with the southernmost drainage channel in the South Borrow area into the Spring 2025 season
- Continue to monitor and address invasive species and weed removal across the site

Photographs taken during the inspection have been included below. Responses to this inspection report should be directed to: Hunter Ridley at the Division of Reclamation, Mining and Safety, 1313 Sherman St., Room 215, Denver, CO 80203. Direct contact can be made by phone at 720-868-7757 or via email at [hunter.ridley@state.co.us](mailto:hunter.ridley@state.co.us).

### **PHOTOGRAPHS**



**Photo 1: View of the revegetating slope from the office building.**





**Photo 2: View west looking up at the revegetating buttress.**



**Photo 3: View west of the south borrow / quarry area which will be loosely filled in with more topsoil material on the talus slope.**





**Photo 4: View east of the south borrow area bench to be topsoiled and seeded.**



**Photo 5: View east of the south borrow / quarry area bench to remain after rip rap removal and topsoiling and seeding.**





**Photo 6: Overlook north of the revegetating buttress.**



**Photo 7: View west, looking up at the bedrock channel of the Upper South Channel. USFS land is visible to the west.**





**Photo 8: View north of the Upper South Channel on USFS land.**



**Photo 9: View east of the topsoiled area south of the Leica level. Vegetation growth here is more full and diverse than other**



areas. Some weeds are present.



**Photo 10: View northwest of the first bench of the buttress, vegetation growth is weakest in this area.**

**Inspection Contact Address**

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